

YEAR IN REVIEW



The Idaho Military Division
2018



**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, IDAHO
COMMANDER, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD
GOWEN FIELD - BOISE, IDAHO**

Governor Little,

From the founding of our Territorial Militia in 1877 to the present day, the men and women of the Idaho Military Division have made a significant and lasting impact on our state and nation. Throughout 2018, our Civilians, Soldiers and Airmen have maintained this long standing tradition of selfless and dedicated service, both here at home and abroad.

In 2018, we saw the launch of STARBASE, the Idaho Military Division's newest community outreach program. Each week, Gowen Field welcomes hundreds of fifth grade students from Treasure Valley Title I schools to provide innovative, hands-on education in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. Students graduate from the program with enhanced goal-setting and teamwork skills, as well as a valuable awareness of STEM education paths and careers.

We've seen significant growth and development of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy with 2018, marking its fifth year in operation and more than 1,000 students successfully completing the program. The academy continues to provide second chances for our state's most valuable resource: our children, by providing them the life skills and tools necessary to succeed as productive citizens of Idaho.

Soldiers from two Idaho Army National Guard units deployed to Afghanistan and Kuwait this past year. Airmen from the Idaho Air National Guard deployed to numerous locations across the Middle East. We've welcomed home many of these service members from their overseas assignments and are grateful for their safe return. Our thoughts remain with all those still deployed, and with their families.

We continued to strengthen our partnerships with the local community here in Idaho. This year, our Army aviation assets assisted in the search and rescue of four Idahoans, while our Civilian force played a key role in coordinating recovery efforts after a devastating wildland fire season. Idaho Army and Air National Guard assets trained with local rescue teams and other first responders to improve our joint disaster readiness.

Building on the strong relationships with our sovereign Tribal partners is always a priority and 2018 was no different. Idaho National Guard engineers visited the Duck Valley Indian Reservation where they improved roads and culverts to enhance safety and mobility for ranchers and their livestock. Our joint medical teams partnered with Tribal medical staff to provide sports physicals, medical exams and dental treatment, while other medical professionals provided in-service training and community health education.

Our achievements during 2018 were made possible only through the steadfast support from our community. On behalf of the men and women of the Idaho Military Division, we express our thanks and gratitude. As our Governor and Commander in Chief, you can be confident that the Idaho Military Division will have a successful and productive 2019.

Always Ready. Always There.

Michael J. Garshak
Brigadier General



Idaho Military Division

Idaho National Guard

Public Affairs Office

4040 W. Guard St.

Boise, Idaho 83705

christopher.l.borders2.mil@mail.mil

Governor:

Brad Little

Adjutant General:

Brig. Gen. Michael J. Garshak

Public Affairs Officer:

Maj. Christopher L. Borders

Editor:

Capt. Robert J. Taylor

Graphic Designer:

Staff Sgt. Ginna M. Martin

Contributors:

Master Sgt. Joshua Allmaras

Michele Bartlett

1st Lt. Robert Barney

Staff Sgt. Skylar Child

Gayla Crall

Sgt. Mason Cutrer

Elizabeth Duncan

Sgt. First Class Cody Earl

2nd Lt. Crystal L. Farris

Spc. Michael Hunnisett

Maria McCullough

Lance Cpl. Adam Montera

Master Sgt. Sarah E. Pokorney

Spc. Jonnie Riley

Carmen Syed

Sgt. E.J. Valencia

Master Sgt. Becky Vanshur

Airman 1st Class Talyor Walker

Staff Sgt. Kyle Warner

Airman 1st Class Mercedee Wilds

Tech. Sgt. John Winn

ON THE COVER



(An A-10 Thunderbolt II conducts a show of force over an observation point during a combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise at the Orchard Combat Training Center, Sept. 20. Photo by 1st Lt. Robert Barney)

Editor's Note: The Year in Review is an Idaho Military Division publication comprised of stories published throughout 2018. Some positions and ranks may have changed during the year. Views expressed may not be those of the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Army National Guard, Air National Guard, Department of Defense or U.S. Government.

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In order to effectively conduct rescue missions with civilians and state entities, the 124th Fighter Wing's Air Support Operations Squadron held its first training event with approximately 70 civilians from local rescue teams March 1-4 in Cascade. ASOS Airmen have extensive outdoor training in survivor skills and the operation of search and rescue equipment. Airmen are trained in numerous areas, including avalanche rescue training, snowmobile training, sling load training and stretcher hoist rescue training. This year, the ASOS trained extensively with the Idaho Army National Guard's UH-72 Lakota helicopters.





Youth program brings Idaho National Guard children together

The Idaho National Guard's Child and Youth Services program hosted Snow Bash 2018 in mid-January to bring military children from around the state together in Cascade.

"A lot of this is teaching resiliency training to military kids so they know how to cope with deployments and know that there's a support system always there for them," said Katie Kohlbecker, whose dad serves in the Idaho Army National Guard.

During the four-day camp, military children spent time playing games that encouraged team building and leadership skills, while participating in small group activities that reinforce resiliency using lessons that fit the camp's theme, "Beyond Camp Wonderland."

"I really like it," Elijah Maisey said. "Everyone is the same because we all have parents in the military. It's different than interacting with kids at school because most kids at school don't have parents in the military and don't know what it's like to have a parent gone."

Masiey, whose dad serves in the Idaho Army National Guard, said his dad has deployed only once in his life but travels often throughout the country for his job.


Several key Idaho National Guard leaders visited the camp, including Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, assistant adjutant

general of Idaho and commander, Idaho Army National Guard; Col. Britt Vanshur, director of staff, Idaho Air National Guard; and Chief Master Sgt. Harold Bongiovi, state senior enlisted leader.

"It's so rewarding for me to hear what this program has to offer," Schwartz told campers. "It's rewarding to see the development of the older kids who have transitioned from campers to counselors to chaperons."

Children enrolled in the Idaho National Guard Child and Youth Services program can attend the annual camp starting at age 10. They are eligible to be a camp counselor at 14 if they've attended two camps previously and can become a chaperone at 18.

"I wouldn't be where I am or who I am today without this program," Kohlbecker said. "It's taught me I have friends and support all over the state. It's taught me to become a strong and influential leader, not only with the military kids here, but also taking those skills outside of here, whether it's my school or other positions I hold."

Kohlbecker has attended at least 10 camps and is the state's alternate representative, the number two youth leader in the program. In addition, she also serves as her student council's secretary. 



IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD: SERVING LOCALLY, GLOBALLY

Idaho's Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen build partnerships around the world. This year, Idaho National Guard Soldiers and Airmen trained in Bangladesh, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Mongolia, Morocco, Scotland, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Soldiers from the United Kingdom trained with IDARNG Soldiers in the Orchard Combat Training Center and senior leaders from multiple nations traveled to Idaho to participate in a humanitarian assistance and disaster response seminar.





PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS



MORE THAN JUST COMMUNICATIONS

The Public Safety Communications and Information Technology Services Division is part of the Idaho Military Division. It enhances Idaho's public health, safety and welfare by assisting emergency communications and response professionals in the establishment, management, operations and accountability of consolidated emergency communications systems. The agency provides data network for some of the Idaho National Guard's day-to-day operations, both on Gowen Field and in its Orchard Combat Training Center.





GIVING BACK


The Idaho National Guard conducted nearly 300 community relations events throughout the state during 2018.

Community relations events, known as COMRELS, inform the public about the Idaho National Guard and help our organization maintain a viable and visible relationship with the 21 communities throughout the state where units are located.

COMREL requests include tours of Gowen Field or local armories; the use of the leadership reaction course and vehicle or weapon simulators on Gowen Field; vehicle and aircraft static displays; the use of the 25th Army Band and the honor guard at public events; and the use of local facilities for public events. COMRELS also include the use of Idaho National Guard equipment in parades and aerial flyovers during patriotic holidays and events.

COMREL requests can be initiated by members of the public, by unit representatives or by the Idaho National Guard's command team. All requests undergo an approval process.

The public should make requests at least 30 days in advance. For larger events, such as vehicle or aircraft displays, please allow 45 days. Flyovers require a minimum lead-time of at least 60 days.

To learn more, visit the Idaho Military Division website at <https://imd.idaho.gov/> or call the Community Relations Office at 208-272-4142. 





THE LAST FRONTIER 124th FIGHTER WING TRAINS IN ALASKA



Airmen from the 124th Fighter Wing participated in Red Flag Alaska 18-2, June 11-22 at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska.

Red Flag Alaska is a simulated combat scenario comprised of multi-national forces. F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 18th Aggressor Squadron at Eielson AFB played the role of defensive forces in order to enhance combat training.

"RFA is a unique opportunity for the 124th Fighter Wing to train with different fighter squadrons and other aircraft," said Airman 1st Class Nathan Johnston, a 124th Fighter Wing crew chief.



More than 1,500 people and 100 aircraft from four branches of the military participated in the exercise, including units from the Japanese Air Self-Defense Force, the Republic of Singapore Air Force and the Royal Air Force. The participants flew more than 4,000 missions.

"When you have this many different types of assets coming together, it presents awesome planning opportunities," said 1st Lt. Mike Shufeldt, an A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot with the 190th Fighter Squadron. "It also presents challenges that we get to work through that prepare us for going to combat and working as a team down range."



"This is stuff we can take back to our unit and keep making ourselves better." -1st Lt. Mike Shufeldt

Shufeldt said Red Flag has typically focused on air-to-air operations, but the 190th Fighter Squadron was able to help plan this Red Flag, tailoring the training to the A-10s' air-to-ground mission.

RFA provided a training opportunity for more than just pilots. Maintenance crews, logistics personnel, services members and other Airmen participated in scenarios and simulated combat conditions.

Senior Airman Jesse Barber, a KC-135 instructor boom operator with the 50th Air Refueling Squadron, MacDill Air Force Base, Florida, said Red Flag Alaska allows Airmen to gain valuable experience working with different units, as well as different countries.

"Getting to refuel some of the fighter jets that we don't normally get to refuel gives our boom operators experience with working in a fast-paced environment and other valuable training that we need," said Barber.

Shufeldt said it was a true testament to the 124th Fighter Wing's ability to go

somewhere, pop up shop and get the job done.

"We got a ton of sorties in and we learned a lot," said Shufeldt. "This is stuff we can take back to our unit and keep making ourselves better." 🇺🇸



HOIST AWAY

IDAHO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD TRAINS WITH BOISE FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Boise Fire Department conducted hoist training with the Idaho Army National Guard's state aviation group April 2-6 at Gowen Field to facilitate readiness for future domestic operations.

The two agencies previously worked together in February 2017 to rescue a 68-year-old man in Weiser after flood waters left him stranded in his house. The training was the result of an after-action review conducted from that rescue.

During that rescue, an Idaho Army National Guard Soldier was lowered by hoist into the river after it was discovered firefighters did not have the proper hoist training. Leaders from the Idaho National Guard and the Boise Fire Department agreed afterward that joint training should occur so that in future operations, officials will have the option to lower a firefighter with swift water rescue training and equipment into the water in a similar situation.

"The collaborative training we do with the Idaho Army National Guard is priceless," said Paul Roberts, Boise Fire Department division chief of special operations. "This joint training that the Guard provides Boise Fire with is highly specialized, and it provides the unique opportunity to learn techniques that could save a life. This training solidifies what we need to know to be successful in helicopter rescue scenarios."

The training was designed to allow Boise Fire Department's dive/swift water rescue team to become familiar with an aircraft's hoist while wearing their river rescue gear. In addition, the training provided the opportunity for Soldiers and firefighters to work together outside of an emergency situation. The training was conducted over three days so that members from the fire department's three shifts could complete the training.

Firefighters received classroom training and then practiced hooking



into the hoist while still on the ground inside an aircraft hangar before completing familiarization training in a UH-60 Black Hawk and a UH-72A Lakota.

"It's easier to train a firefighter that has swift water training to ride on the hoist than it is to train an Army hoist operator to become swift water qualified," said senior firefighter Mike Barbero, who is also an Idaho Army National Guard helicopter pilot.

Barbero coordinated the training between the Idaho Army National Guard and the fire department.

In addition to completing the Weiser River rescue, the 1-183rd Aviation Battalion also rescued a 55-year-old man stranded in the Frank Church Wilderness area in October 2017. 🇺🇸

WELCOME TO STARBASE



GOWEN FIELD

- 1** STARBASE students develop their computer design skills using a new program called Creo.
- 2** STARBASE students learn about STEM career opportunities from an IDARNG Black Hawk helicopter pilot.
- 3** STARBASE students program and test a LEGO robot by guiding it through an obstacle course using iPads.
- 4** Brig. Gen. Michael Garshak congratulates students after completion of the 25-hour STARBASE curriculum.

The Idaho Military Division launched its STARBASE program in 2018. STARBASE is a science, technology, engineering and math education awareness and outreach program funded by the DOD, and provides Title I fifth grade students in local school districts 25 hours of "hands-on, minds on" activities. The Gowen Field-based program uses an inquiry based curriculum in six core areas: physics and chemistry, energy, technology, engineering, math and STEM careers.

TOP

Score

204th RTI SETS STANDARD

Units from the Idaho Army National Guard's 204th Regional Training Institute were recently inspected for accreditation, with units scoring between a 99.2 to 100 percent.


The 204th RTI trains hundreds of Active Duty, National Guard and Reserve Soldiers each year on Gowen Field in support of the Army's modular force.

The regiment provides institutional training in several military occupational specialties, advanced leader courses,

senior leader courses and additional skill identifiers. Specifically, it teaches reclassification, advanced leader and senior leader courses in six career fields.

"The 204th RTI provides professional quality training to meet the needs of the total Army, not just the National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Farin Schwartz, assistant adjutant general of Idaho and commander, Idaho Army National Guard. "Graduates can be assured they are receiving the best training the Army has to offer."



The unit's armor training battalion received a perfect 100 percent on its accreditation inspection. Its maintenance ordnance training battalion received a 99.2 during its accreditation inspection; its Officer Candidate School received a 99.8; and the Warrant Officer School program received a 100. 



Above & Beyond

266th RANS earns Governor's Outstanding Unit Award

The Idaho Air National Guard's 266th Range Squadron received the Governor's Outstanding Unit Award in 2018 for exemplary service to the state of Idaho and nation.

In 2017, the 266th RANS executed its mission to provide electronic warfare training to warfighters at the Mountain Home Range Complex, nationally and around the world. The unit helped aircrews hone their response to surface-to-air missile threats by simulating a contested or threat-dense environment. The successful execution of its mission is due, in part, to the strong relationship with Mountain Home Air Force Base—its host installation—and collaboration with other Department of Defense components.

"We have a phenomenal relationship with Mountain Home Air Force Base as a host installation," said Lt. Col. Jay Labrum, 266th RANS commander. "They understand our mission and support it. Our relationship is a true benchmark of total force integration."


In addition to its continuous mission support across the world, the 266th RANS supported the 366th Fighter Wing at MHAFB by providing cargo deployment function support and augmenting the 366th Civil Engineer Squadron during a record 35-inch snow season to enable mission operations for 52 F-15E Strike Eagles. 266th RANS Airmen also provided unique assistance to the 366th Medical Group through language translation support for patients and medical staff.

"Culturally we strive for a collaborative mindset to accomplish the mission," said Chief Master Sgt. Warren Davis, chief of maintenance, 266th RANS.

"We hear 'no' often but we figure out a way to make it a 'yes.'"

While executing mission responsibilities, members of the 266th RANS also worked to advance their careers and benefit their community. The unit had 28 Airmen complete professional military education courses. Unit members coached sports programs and lead scouting efforts for more than 40 children. The squadron continued its outstanding tradition of supporting veterans by caring for more than 200 veterans and supporting various veteran events.

The 266th RANS was established in 1997. The unit has more than 140 members, most of whom are in a full-time status. Typically they report to duty at MHAFB and drive to the MHRC to perform their electronic warfare mission, which makes for long duty days.

"We have a unique mission that requires a full-time force. The NCOs and senior NCOs that oversee the 130 enlisted members are world-class," said Labrum. "I've never seen NCOs lean so far forward to make things happen. They have a passion for putting innovation into the field." 



IDYCA

RESHAPING THE LIVES OF MORE THAN 1,000 IDAHO TEENS

The Idaho Youth Challenge Academy reached Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter's personal goal of 1,000 graduates by the end of its fifth year when 129 students graduated Dec. 15 in a ceremony at Lewiston High School.

"This program is one of my proudest achievements as governor of Idaho," Otter said. "We have watched this program grow into an extremely successful high school."

Administered by the Department of Defense, IDYCA is a cooperative state-level program between the Idaho Military Division and the National Guard's Youth Challenge Program. There are 39 sites in 30 U.S. states and territories around the nation.

The program's primary focus is reclaiming the lives of 16- to 18-year-olds who are at risk of dropping out of high school, or who already have, by

getting them back on a path necessary to succeed as adults.

With the addition of 129 cadets from the most recent class, the program's largest class, 1,003 Idaho students have now completed the program.

**I believe in each
and every one of
these cadets.**

-Brig. Gen. Michael Garshak

REMARKABLE GROWTH

Idaho opened the doors to the academy's first class in January 2014 in Pierce under the command of Maj. Gen. Gary Sayler, former adjutant general of Idaho.

Students can earn up to a year's worth of credits in five months while participating in various services to the community, learning about vocational trades and potential careers, and helping with the maintenance and cleanup of the school's campus.

The program tracks students for a year after they complete the academic requirements. Students are considered a success if they return to high school and graduate; are employed; join the military; or continue to perform services in their community. Idaho's graduates have a 90 percent success rate based on this criteria.

When Sayler was the assistant adjutant general, a position he held from 2004-2010, he worked with the state's adjutant general, Maj. Gen. Larry Lafrenz, to add Idaho to the National Guard's waiting list to receive a program.

When Sayler became the adjutant general in 2010, he worked with the DOD to establish the program in Idaho, and then spent three years working with the state legislature to receive the necessary funding. The state contributes 25 percent of the funding and the federal government provides the remaining 75 percent. Students do not pay to attend the academy.

The campus is located at a former elementary school in Pierce and provides a number of full-time jobs to Pierce residents. Sayler worked with city officials for permission to use the property at no cost to the state or the Idaho National Guard.

When the program first started, Guard officials had to travel to schools across the state to inform administrators about the program. Sayler said they were met with skepticism, but now the program has a waiting list.

"We've gone from a program no one knew about to now having to turn kids away," Sayler said. "It's been remarkable to see that growth."



Margaret Flowers, treasurer of the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Foundation, became involved with the academy after seeing the program's positive effects on her son.

"My son was in the very first class, Class 14-1," she said. "The program saved my son's life. He turned 18 while enrolled in the academy and if

he had not gone through the program, who knows where he would be now, probably homeless. Since graduating, we have a fantastic relationship. He has a full-time job and he can take care of himself. He is doing amazing and I am very thankful."

POSITIVE EFFECT

Sayler retired from the Idaho National Guard in 2017, at which time Brig. Gen. Michael Garshak became the state's adjutant general.

"Maj. Gen. Sayler laid the groundwork for the program, which I plan to build upon," Garshak said. "One of my goals is to increase the Idaho Youth ChalleNGe Academy Foundation in order to improve the academy's infrastructure. New barracks, new roofing and improvements to the laundry facility are among my priorities."

In September, Garshak, state officials and principals from local Treasure Valley high schools flew to Pierce to visit the facilities, staff and cadets. They toured classrooms, saw the living

quarters and ate lunch with the cadets. They concluded their visit by judging a drill and ceremony competition.

"Our military leaders bring state and local officials, school administrators, and teachers up to visit the academy and cadets to demonstrate the good return on investment that is happening up here," said Collier Lippie, executive

LIFE-CHANGING

"I love this school. It has given my son a second chance at graduating school. Thank you so much for all your help and warm welcoming. -Parent in Kuna

The challenge changed me and made me realize what respect really is. To myself and others. Without the academy I probably wouldn't be alive today. So with that being said, the academy was the best decision my mom ever made. I was mad at first but looking back, I'm grateful she did this for me. Thank you to all the staff for putting up with everything you have, are and will put up with. You guys are amazing people. Thank you for giving people a second chance. -Cadet Brittnee Sharp (14-1)

I can officially say that this program is life changing. My son, who graduated class 16-1, was going down the wrong path. The staff at IDYCA never gave up on him and continued to help him through this program and his rough times. Thank you for giving me a more mature responsible young man back! -Parent in Emmett

IDYCA changed my life. I haven't been in trouble since I graduated and brought my GPA from a 1.2 to a 3.9 in five-and-a-half months. I wish all adolescents had this opportunity! -Cadet Anastasia Alexander (14-2)

For additional success stories, visit IDYCA's website at www.idyouthchallenge.com/success-stories/ or its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/IDYCA.

IDAHO YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY PROGRAM FACTS

- Cooperative program between Idaho Military Division and the National Guard Bureau, in contract with Joint School District #171. Fully state-accredited alternative high school.

- The first ChalleNge Program was started in 1993 to stem the nation's dropout problem. Idaho's inaugural class was in January 2014.

- Three-phase program: two-week acclimation, 20-week residential and 12-month post residential.

- 8 core components:

- Academic excellence
- Leadership and followership
- Life coping skills
- Job skills
- Service to the community
- Responsible citizenship
- Physical fitness
- Health and hygiene

- 1003 Idaho program graduates

- 120 high school diplomas issued by IDYCA

- 108 in-residence GED completions

- Served students from 43 of the 44 Idaho counties (Franklin)

- 70 graduates joined the military - 7.8% (4+ % nationally)

- 51,128 hours of service to local communities completed

IDYCA is a quasi-military, fully-accredited residential high school academy, utilizing discipline and structure to ensure a productive learning environment, open to all 16-18 year-old Idaho residents. Participation is voluntary and tuition-free. Students who accept this opportunity have the potential to earn up to 14 high school credits (one year) in five-and-a-half months.

officer to the adjutant general of Idaho. "When they see firsthand the hundreds of lives this program positively effects each year, the program sells itself."

Mike Farris, Centennial High School principal in Meridian, had three Centennial students enrolled in the program's most recent class. He took the opportunity to visit his students and learn about their accomplishments and future goals after graduating the academy.

"I learned a lot about the Youth ChalleNge Academy and what it is doing for the young men and women who are a part of it," said Farris. "Today was an awesome learning experience for me."


**This program is one of my
proudest achievements
as governor of Idaho.**

--Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter



SECOND CHANCES

The program starts with a disciplined acclimation phase, where cadets learn to adjust to the physical, mental and social discipline the program offers. Not all of the potential cadets can handle this phase, but those who successfully complete the acclimation period continue on as IDYCA cadets and begin the 20-week residential phase. This phase emphasizes self-discipline, self-esteem, education and the development of healthy lifestyles.

"I have seen the results and this program saves lives. So many of these teenagers complete graduation and go on to become successful and valued contributors to their communities," Garshak said. "Their motto is 'We believe in second chances' and so do I," said Garshak. "I believe in each and every one of these cadets." 



IF IT DOESN'T CHALLENGE YOU,
IT WON'T CHANGE YOU.







Strykers assigned to 8-1 Cavalry, 2-2 Stryker Brigade Combat Team maneuver during a combined arms maneuver live-fire exercise at the Orchard Combat Training Center on Sept. 20. The 8-1 CAV conducted its CAMLFX using organic field artillery and mortar support with close air support from the 124th Fighter Wing's 190th Fighter Squadron. The OCTC provided a unique opportunity for the more than 600 Soldiers from 8-1 CAV to conduct troop and platoon exercises simultaneously in a realistic and austere environment, including multiple days of CAMLFX.



STRONG INVESTMENT

In 2018, the Idaho Army National Guard's Construction and Facilities Management Office completed multiple projects, including 31 facilities that were approved in 2017, totaling \$19.4 million. The office also secured \$68 million in 2018 for future projects.



The projects supported range improvements and additions at the Orchard Combat Training Center and improvements to Gowen Field facilities. The railhead and several ranges were upgraded at the OCTC and a new troop medical clinic and staging areas for rotational units were built. On Gowen Field, new warehouses were built and barracks were upgraded.



BUILDING READINESS, COMMUNITIES



MOVING DIRT IN DUCK VALLEY



The Idaho National Guard participated in several engineer and medical aid Innovative Readiness Training projects within the community. Members of the Idaho Air National Guard's 124th Civil Engineer Squadron traveled to Romney, West Virginia, where Airmen made various renovations to the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind, which included installing bathrooms, wheelchair ramps and a kitchen. Members of the same unit and the Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Brigade Engineer Battalion traveled to the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Idaho, where they improved roads and culverts to enhance the safety and mobility of Shoshone-Paiute ranchers and their cattle. Medical teams partnered with tribal medical staff at the Owyhee Community Health Center to conduct sports physicals, dental treatment and educational health seminars. Each training opportunity fostered good relations by providing key services to communities while building mission-readiness.



REBUILDING THE WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND





124TH FIRE DEPARTMENT NAMED AIR GUARD'S

Best

The 124th Civil Engineer Squadron's fire department was named fire department of the year for the fifth time by the Air National Guard Fire Chiefs Association.

The Greg O. Winjum Fire Department of the Year award honors the top performing fire department in the Air National Guard based on accomplishments in seven categories including training, fire prevention and community relations.

The Gowen Field Fire Department won in its size category by a unanimous vote.

"It validates our work," said Chief Master Sgt. Christopher A. Brearley, 124th CES fire chief. "It validates what our members do. It shows that we're meeting our goals and that we're a progressive department and on the cutting edge. We're staying on top of the career field."


One of the most significant examples of the department's commitment to innovation is the implementation of mutual aid agreements.

"The biggest strength we have is that we are really good at incorporating our experience from working with other departments," said Lt. Col. Elizabeth A. Sumner, 124th

CES commander and fire marshal. "It increases our overall training capability."

The department has established mutual aid agreements with the Boise Fire Department, Ada County and the Bureau of Land Management. Through these agreements, firefighters not only respond to incidents in tandem, but also participate in inter-agency exercises to improve response effectiveness during mass casualty events, aircraft incidents and more.

Through meet-and-greet events for children, monthly local outreach meetings, memorial rides, inspections and retiree reunions, the firefighters are never too far from their community.

"Every hour these Airmen put into their training and being present in our community is critical to saving lives and property," said Col. Timothy J. Donnellan, commander, 124th Fighter Wing. "They epitomize the role of the Idaho Air National Guard Airman, ready to support our nation and community at any time. We could not be more proud of our firefighters, especially as they are receiving this award for the fifth time." 





IDAHO OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DISASTER RELIEF: READY FOR ANYTHING


The Idaho Office of Emergency Management is a critical branch of the Idaho Military Division. IOEM is the state's emergency management agency tasked by Idaho code with providing assistance to the 44 counties and four Tribes in managing man-made and natural disasters in the state.

The Idaho Emergency Operations Center is housed within IOEM at Gowen Field in Boise and is a central hub for coordination efforts and situational awareness during a disaster.

In 2018, IOEM helped coordinate recovery efforts following devastating wildland fires in parts of the state. IOEM was also instrumental in the development and success of an active shooter exercise with multiple local agencies at Borah High School in Boise. Additionally, the agency's director, Brad Richy, was sworn in as president

of the National Emergency Management Agency. This nationwide organization helps foster cooperation between states' emergency management agencies, in addition to sharing and collaborating on new and developing best practices.

IOEM was instrumental in helping First Lady of Idaho Lori Otter produce and write a new children's book. "Ida Prepares, a Year in Emergency Preparedness with Ida, Tank and Duke" will be used in schools across the state to build a culture of preparedness among all Idahoans.

IOEM updated the state's emergency operations plan in 2018. This detailed all-hazards plan establishes a framework for managing disasters in Idaho and develops mechanisms for state support to state, local and tribal emergency managers. 



ALWAYS READY. ALWAYS THERE.

THROUGHOUT 2018, IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN DEPLOYED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE IDAHO NATIONAL GUARD APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT FROM OUR FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, LOVED ONES AND EMPLOYERS.



Detachment 2, C Company, 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion mobilized in April for training and deployed to Afghanistan for a 12-month deployment.



937th Engineer Detachment (Fire fighting Team) returned from a 9-month deployment to Romania in May.



124th Security Forces Squadron returned in November after a deployment to Southwest Asia.



IDAHO AIR NATIONAL GUARD MARCHES THROUGH AIR FORCE DEFENDER CHALLENGE 2018

The Air National Guard's Air Force Defender Challenge team, consisting of two Idaho Air National Guard Airmen, took third place in the dismounted operations component of the challenge, and fifth place overall at Joint Base San Antonio - Camp Bullis, Texas, Sept. 11-13.

After a 14-year hiatus, the challenge returned with 14 teams from Air Force major commands, Germany and Great Britain to be the best overall security forces team.

"We spend three days testing our foundational tactics for integrated defense," said Brig. Gen. Andrea Tullos, director of security forces for the Air

Force. "We present the teams with weapons skills, physical endurance and mental challenges in scenarios they may come across both in garrison and down range. It's the full spectrum of our readiness."

The challenge is designed to test the skills of Airmen in three different areas during the three-day period.

All of the challenges are designed to stress and test the security forces Airmen, but one of the competition areas stood out amongst all of the Air National Guard team members.

"The dismounted operation was the most challenging part of the event," said Tech. Sgt. Dedrick Baublitz, a

security forces craftsman with the 103rd Security Forces Squadron, Windsor Locks, Connecticut, and team member of the Air National Guard's Defender Challenge team. "I got to push myself mentally to a level I normally don't get to push to. The guys around me motivated me and I was able to push myself harder because of it."

Even the Air Force Defender Challenge cadre took notice of how well the Air National Guard team did during the dismounted operation portion of the competition, which is a road march that includes land navigation, memorization, securing hostages and tactical combat casualty care.

"I was their assigned team observer, meaning I ran through cradle to grave with the Air National Guard," said Master Sgt. Steven Kaun, the Air Force military working dog program manager and Defender Challenge cadre member.

"I couldn't be more impressed with them, their professionalism, their poise and their tact. The team ran with only



three days of training and did excellent on the course.”

Training for the competition was difficult to coordinate, but that didn’t stop the defenders from the Air National Guard.



“As a team, we spent three days together to train for this event,” said Master Sgt. Jeffery Carter, plans, programs and investigations lead for the 187th Security Forces Squadron, Montgomery, Alabama, and team captain. “Individually, we all prepared at home and our time in Fort Worth gave us an idea of the things we needed to focus and get stronger on. There was a lot of studying to brush up on the perishable skills that we need to know, but don’t always get to perform.”

Carter said being part of this challenge was a source of pride and humbling.

“When I met the team, I was immediately humbled,” said Carter. “These guys are amazing and they really let you know where you stand. It also lets you know that there are people out there that can push you and try just as hard as you do. It has been humbling to watch them perform.”

Taking home third place in the dismounted operations challenge

and fifth overall, the ANG members attributed their success to teamwork.

“Coming out here as a team of six, representing the Air National Guard, we were able to exploit our capabilities and knowledge,” said Staff



Sgt. Jonathan Finer, a security forces journeyman with the 124th Security Forces Squadron. “The team did great. We were by far one of the best teams out here. The competition wasn’t easy, but as a team, we competed very well together.”

“We came together like brothers and we built a great comradery,” said Staff Sgt. Austin Jost, 128th Security Forces Squadron journeyman, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. “We have a great group of Airmen here and I am proud to be standing next to them.”

All teams consisted of the best security forces members in the Air Force and partner countries.

“All the MAJCOMS sent the best of their security forces defenders to come down and compete in physical and mental challenges to see who has the most lethal and capable security forces out there,” said Carter.

The team left an impression on its observer.

“The Air National Guard is a force to be reckoned with and they came here ready to do business,” said Kaun.

“They represented the Air National Guard well and we look forward to seeing them next time.”

The 2018 Air National Guard Air Force Defender’s Challenge Team:



Master Sgt. Mathew Quinlan,
124th Security Forces
Squadron, Idaho.



Staff Sgt. Jonathan Finer,
124th Security Forces
Squadron, Idaho.



Master Sgt. Jeffery Carter,
187th Security Forces
Squadron, Alabama.



Tech. Sgt. Dedrick Baublitz,
103rd Security Forces
Squadron, Connecticut.



Tech. Sgt. Felipe Fernandez,
147th Security Forces
Squadron, Texas.



Staff Sgt. Austin Jost, 128th
Security Forces Squadron,
Wisconsin.



Hidden beneath twigs and weeds, three snipers' stomachs are flat on the ground, dirt and grime on their faces. It's a 90-degree day. A drip of sweat rolls down into the lead sniper's eye, stinging and smearing the camouflage paint down his face.

All that can be seen in the bundles of cheat grass is a pair of steady, intense eyes. He does not blink. Complete silence and stillness.


"I have eyes on the target," faintly whispers Staff Sgt. Matt Koerner, lead sniper section sergeant. "Calling it in."

The Idaho Army National Guard was recently tasked with forming a small sniper scout platoon, a first for the 2nd of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team.

"It's our very first sniper platoon for Idaho and one of the challenges is finding qualified individuals," said Lt. Col. Jason Gracida, 2-116 battalion commander. "Once we get them through sniper school, then they can come back and teach those younger future snipers."

The job of a sniper requires extensive training, intense attention to detail and complete discipline with stillness. He risks exposure if he moves too quickly. If a bug crawls onto his face, he has to resist the urge to scratch, as it tickles his skin.

The platoon, established one year ago, started with two previously qualified instructors. This year marks their first training in the field and coincides with the 116th Brigade's two-week annual training at the Orchard Combat Training Center. The two qualified snipers have spent the previous year training the new platoon.

"The effective sniper team has to be able to move into an area, remain undetected and report enemy activity. Get in and get out, unseen," said Koerner. 

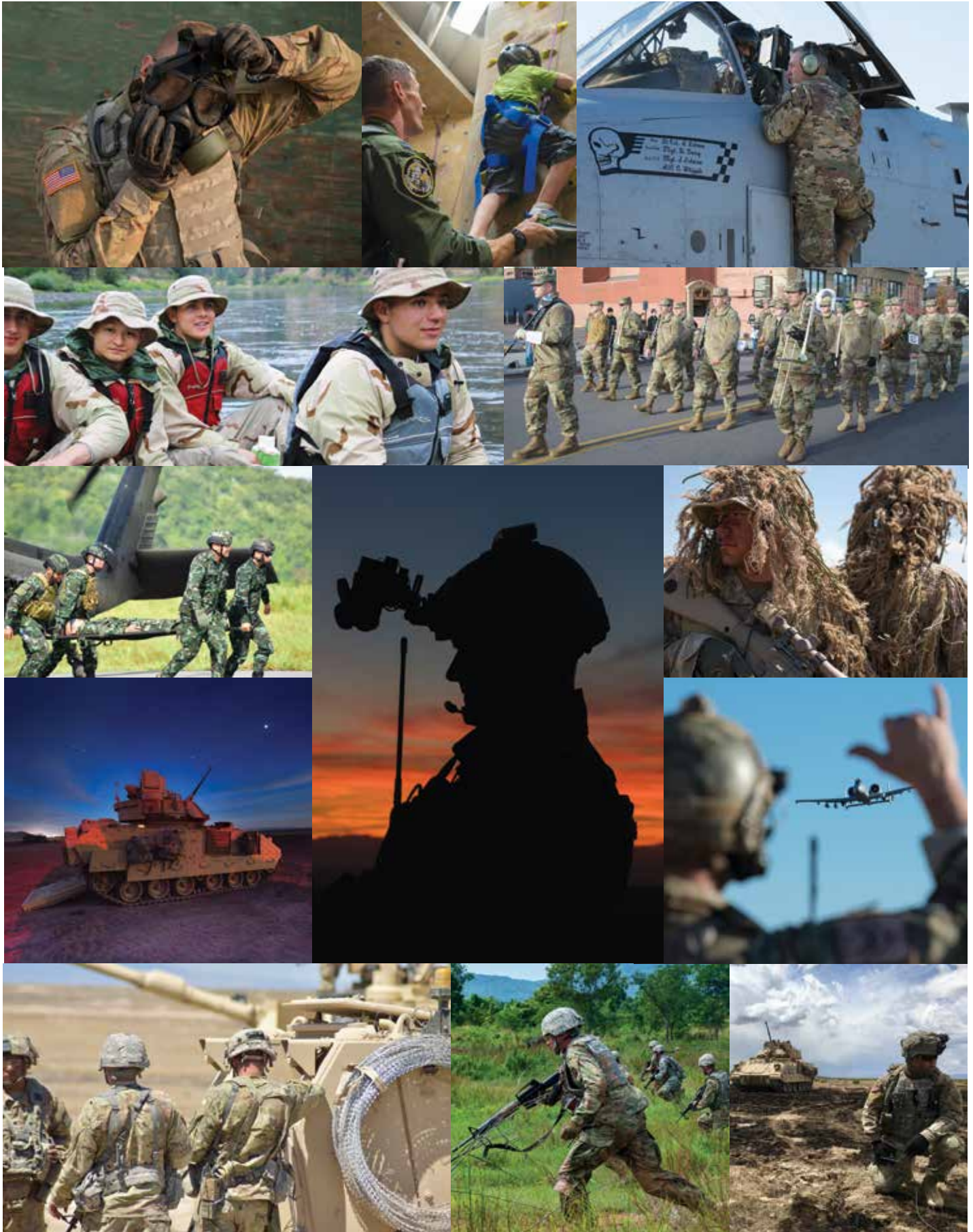


XCTC: 116th CBCT TRAINS FOR NTC

The Idaho Army National Guard's 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team completed an eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation at the Orchard Combat Training Center June 1-24 in preparation for its National Training Center rotation in June 2019.

More than 3,000 Soldiers from at least five Army National Guard states, the U.S. Army, the U.S. Army Reserve, the British Army Reserve's 103rd Regiment Royal Artillery and Airmen from the Oregon Air National Guard's 123rd Weather Flight participated in the brigade's largest training exercise of the year.







ECONOMIC REPORT

IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION

The Idaho Military Division is Idaho's fourth largest employer with 5,788 federal, state and contracted employees on its payroll. Though nearly two-thirds of its employees are part-time Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen, the IMD's annual payroll exceeds \$200 million, which supports 3,644 Idaho families. While concentrated in Ada County, the IMD creates jobs across the state in nearly two-dozen communities where its facilities are located.

According to an independent study by Richard Gardner, Ph.D., of Bootstrap Solutions, the IMD's effects on the Idaho economy are 11,354 jobs, with labor income of \$402 million totalling \$529 million in economic impact. These impacts amount to 1.21 percent of statewide employment, 1.26 percent of Idaho labor income and 0.32 percent of its economic output.

As a rough guide, these impacts are estimated to generate \$20.1 million in Idaho tax revenue. Given that the State of Idaho only appropriates \$6.8 million to the Idaho Military Division, this is a robust return on investment.

"When you see a Soldier or Airman at the airport, a tank rolling down Pleasant Valley Road or an A-10 in the sky, that is not just the Idaho National Guard's contribution to national defense and disaster response," said Gardner. "It's the economic footprint of one of Idaho's largest employers."

TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE IDAHO MILITARY DIVISION

IMPACT TYPE	EMPLOYMENT	LABOR INCOME	OUTPUT
Direct Impacts	5,953	\$240,895,000	\$273,284,000
Indirect Impacts	2,156	\$68,896,000	\$123,856,000
Induced Impacts	3,245	\$91,711,000	\$132,127,000
TOTAL EFFECT	11,354	\$401,502,000	\$529,267,000
Multipliers (SAM Type II)	1.91	1.67	1.94
% of Idaho Economy	1.21%	1.26%	0.32%

SOURCE: IMPLAN, 2016 data. **NOTES:** Employment includes all full-time, part-time and seasonal jobs in Idaho. Direct employment includes 165 construction workers. Labor income and output expressed in 2017 dollars.

• **Direct Impacts** are changes in economic activity associated with the project or program being studied. In this case, they are the expenditures made to support the IMD.

• **Indirect Impacts** are changes in economic activity made by the businesses providing goods and services to, using the goods and services of, the project or program. Here it is the expenditures made by businesses providing goods to and/or using services of the IMD.

• **Induced Impacts** are changes in economic activity that flow from employees using their wages to purchase household goods and services within Idaho.



The Idaho Military Division is comprised of the Idaho Army and Air National Guard, the Idaho Office of Emergency Management, the Idaho Youth Challenge Academy, Public Safety Communications, the Idaho Military History Museum and STARBASE. The division's headquarters is located on Gowen Field in Boise with facilities spread throughout the state in nearly two dozen communities. Its far-reaching presence throughout Idaho provides a critical emergency response capability in times of crisis and disaster.